

# Proclamation

Whether he is called makua kāne, pop, or dad, fathers play an integral role in the lives of their children and families. They are a building block of a family's foundation. Good fathering provides vast emotional and psychological benefits to the lives of children as they develop through infancy, childhood, adolescence and beyond. These benefits extend into the families and communities of our state, producing fine citizens.

Studies have shown children with fathers who are actively involved and emotionally present in their lives grow up to be more empathetic, compassionate adults than those whose fathers are detached or absent. Moreover, children and teenagers whose fathers make time to be involved in regular family meals and activities tend to have healthy life skills, better self-esteem and fewer problems with alcohol and drug abuse.

Fathers can also be a critical influence in their children's academic performance. Girls and boys of all ages whose fathers help them with homework, attend parent-teacher conferences and volunteer for school activities are more likely to enjoy school, have meaningful friendships with their peers, earn good grades and participate in extracurricular activities.

The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads, a network of public and private organizations and individuals, seeks to increase community awareness of the importance of fathers and support policies and programs that promote involved, nurturing and responsible fatherhood. Each June, the coalition celebrates *Father's Month* in order to highlight the substantial part fathers play in their families and our state.

This year, the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads will again sponsor its *Celebrating Fathers* event at the Windward Mall on June 20, which will feature a father-child look-alike contest, interactive activities, *Golden Dads* kits and valuable parenting information.

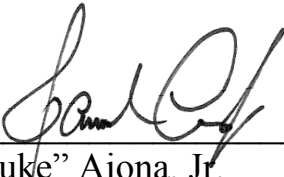
**THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE**, Governor, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **June 2009** as

## FATHER'S MONTH

in Hawai'i, and encourage all of our citizens to join with the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads in celebrating and promoting the importance of fathers in our families and communities.

**DONE** at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifteenth day of June 2009.

  
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Linda Lingle  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
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James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i